From: Michael Chofre [mailto:twasfo59@comcast.net]

Sent: Tuesday, November 29, 2005 11:10 AM

To: MLPAComments@resources.ca.gov

Cc: mlpa@livingseaimages.com; jwolfe@igc.org; YScuba@californiadivers.com

Subject: MLPAComments: Lending my voice in support of Ricketts and other Marine Reserves

Importance: High

To whom it may concern:

I've been diving for almost forty years and am a divemaster for Wallin's Dive Center in San Carlos with current inactive status. I'm an active Board Member of the Northern California Underwater Photographic Society (NCUPS) and have held most positions on the Board over the last twelve years...currently Membership. I dive Monterey approximately two to three times a month...weather permitting. On these occasions, I bring at least one or two buddy divers with me and we generally meet at the Breakwater with half a dozen or more other members we've met through our various club interests.

Over the recent years, I and/or my dive buddies have been "hooked" by the fishermen...causing much damage to our protective suits, and in some cases our equipment and flesh. One instance, my dive buddy was hooked by SEVEN hooks, which tore much of her suit while attempting to unsnarl herself (with my help) amid the swells. Her camera lens was smashed in the attempt to unsnarl the fishing lines hitting it unwittingly against a rock during a swell. These were untended lines!!! Yes, at the Breakwater.

In addition to NCUPS, I'm an active member of the Peninsula's California Sports Divers (CSD) and Monterey Peninsula Underwater Photographers (MPUPs). The NCUPS group has been in existence since 1965 and present membership is approximately 225 paid members. We hold one official event -- our annual "Beach Dive Photo Competition" in Monterey usually in May and join forces with other groups supporting their annual events, such as CenCal's Annual Beach Clean Up at Wharf 2 and EPIC with the MPUP leaders as well as Backscatter's.

We are a growing and tightly knit group of trained diving professionals with a burning fascination for all that lives under the water...notably the Monterey waters...our "diving home." We care about its health and accessibility to us and will do whatever it takes to maintain its health as well as its accessibility, which I why I'm lending my voice to this petition...I believe it's called "Package 2." However, I also demand additional protection of an unbroken Marine Reserve from the Breakwater to Lovers Point.

Thank you for hearing my "electronic" voice.

Ruth Chofre

(:)-)><>><>><>><>><>>(:)-)

Ruth Chofré Isle Cove, 811 Juno Lane Foster City, CA 94404-2813 USA Tel: (650) 571-6083

Email: twasfo59@comcast.net

¤°°°°°¤ø, "ø¤°°°°°¤ø¤°°°°°¤ø, "ø¤°°°°°¤ø¤°°°°°¤ø, "ø¤°°°°°¤

If you're into underwater photography, check out our club website: http://www.ncups.org